

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of modifying a first user's user
2 profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps
3 of:

4 receiving feedback from a first user scoring
5 examples falling into various data-classes;

6 refining said first user's user profile
7 responsively to a said feedback;

8 selectively modifying said first user's user
9 profile responsively to data from a second user's user
10 profile such that said first user's user profile is made
11 more similar to said second user's user profile.

1 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of
2 selectively modifying includes receiving a command from
3 said first user.

1 3. A method as in claim 1, wherein said first
2 and second user's user profiles each include a generalized
3 target description defining a broadest description of
4 favored data-classes and said step of modifying includes
5 replacing said generalized description of said first user's
6 user profile with said generalized description of said
7 second user's user profile.

1 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of
2 generalizing includes modifying said first user's user
3 profile by substituting at least a union of specialized
4 descriptions of said first user's user profile and said
5 second user's user profile for said specialized description
6 of said first user's user profile.

1 5. A method of modifying an implicit-type first
2 user profile for a data-class recommender that is generated
3 based on feedback regarding particular data-class choices,
4 comprising the steps of:

5 labeling features of a second user profile based
6 on categories of criteria, said second user profile being
7 an implicit profile generated by providing feedback on
8 individual selections;

9 displaying labels resulting from said step of
10 labeling;

11 selecting at least one of said labels;

12 modifying said first user profile responsively to
13 portions of said second user profile corresponding to said
14 at least one of said labels.

1 6. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of
2 labeling includes identifying first data descriptors that
3 appear in combination with multiple other second data

4 descriptors and labeling with a label corresponding to said
5 first data descriptors.

1 7. A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of
2 labeling includes identifying first data descriptors in a
3 feature-value-score database for which high scores exist.

1 8. A method of modifying an implicit-type first
2 user profile, comprising the steps of:

3 combining features of said first user profile
4 with features of a second user profile to make said first
5 user profile more like said second user profile;

6 said step of combining including at least one of
7 replacing a first profile generalized description with a
8 second profile generalized description, adding at least a
9 portion of a second profile specialized description to a
10 first profile specialized description, and modifying scores
11 of a first profile feature-value-score database
12 responsively to scores of a second profile feature-value-
13 score database.